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**Evangel**



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# Church of God Evangel

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH

### WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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**COVER PICTURE:** Abraham Lincoln was one of our greatest presidents for many reasons, two of which are depicted in this delightful picture: he was an earnest reader of God's Word and a man devoted to his family circle.



BY A. M. QUICK

## III

### THE PREVALENT PROFANITY

*"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."*

O H, HE doesn't mean anything when he swears; he doesn't even realize what he is saying." That's what some folks say. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

The more automatic, casual, and careless a person is in the blasphemous use of the holy name, the more evident it is that his heart is wickedly at enmity with God.

Why should men condemn the name of the Eternal? Is it an evidence of either sense or breeding to flout the name of the most high God?

What harm has the Lord Jesus Christ done to us that we should bandy His name about as a byword? Was it an evil thing for Him to come from heaven, to teach the most sublime truths, to give His life a sacrifice for mankind? What spite have we against Him that by our evil words we should proclaim ourselves His enemies, allies of that wickedness that caused His death?

"The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taken his name in vain."

Our streets are polluted by profanity uttered fearlessly and openly, and heard with indifference. How long will God forbear? May He not very soon withdraw His protecting hand, and allow the guilt of our land to overtake us? We have become liable to judgment because of this sin.

What is man, that he should wag his puny tongue in contempt of his Creator? When the judgment is set and the books are opened and man is brought to account for every idle word he has uttered, will not this sin be written against us?

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer!"

### IMPORTANT

Address all ministers' and church clerks' reports, tithes, payments on insurance, mission and orphanage monies to General Secretary and Treasurer, H. L. Chesser.

All orders for merchandise and payments on accounts should be addressed to the Church of God Publishing House, Tennessee Music and Printing Company, or the Lighted Pathway, according to kind of merchandise ordered.

Address all job work and complaints concerning business to Business Manager, Cecil Bridges.

All materials intended for publication in the Evangel should be sent to Editor-in-Chief, Charles W. Conn.

# EXPANSION at Headquarters

BY ZENO C. THARP, GENERAL OVERSEER

**T**HE OFFICIALS AT HEADQUARTERS (except Lee College) consist of the General Overseer, two Assistant General Overseers, General Secretary and Treasurer, Editor-in-Chief, National Youth Director, Business Manager, Executive Missions Secretary, Missions Field Representative, and Editor of The LIGHTED PATHWAY. One or more of these have lived in Cleveland for approximately forty-five years. During these forty-five years, only one home has ever been built there. In 1939 a home was built for the General Overseer at a cost of approximately \$6,500. The rest lived in rented homes or old homes purchased and remodeled, or furnished their own homes.

When Brother Chesser was selected as Assistant General Overseer eight years ago, because no home was available in Cleveland, he moved to Atlanta where he lived four months until a home was purchased in Cleveland. The newly purchased home had only two private bedrooms. There he had to sleep his family and entertain his guests for the rest of the four years he served. Of course, at the time the home was purchased the committee did not intend to keep it permanently, but we are still using it.

When R. R. Walker was selected as Secretary and Treasurer, no provision had been made for him a place to live, as Brother Boehmer, the former Secretary, had furnished his own home. So Brother Walker and family moved into the two-bedroom home with Brother Chesser (a third room could be used for a bedroom, but was not private) for several weeks until the College gave up one of its homes for the General Secretary.

When Brother Conn came to Cleveland as Editor of The LIGHTED PATHWAY, he moved his family to Atlanta and for awhile stayed in the Cherokee Hotel, paying his own hotel expense. Then he moved in with Brother Chesser and stayed until a home could be secured. Brother Conn has ten in the family, but only two small bedrooms. Ten of them cannot crowd into the two small rooms, so Sister Conn must put up a bed in the kitchen each night. The kitchen is not large enough for the bed and for Sister Conn to cook, so each morning before she

can start breakfast she must get the children up and take the bed down. This she is still doing and has been doing for more than four years. In the winter the whole family must dress in the living room around a coal heater, as they have no other heat in the house. This is a little embarrassing at times, especially when they have company.

Last year a modern home was built for the General Overseer. I am living in it. At that time some of the brethren felt we should build two more, but others felt that one home a year was enough, so we stopped there.

**AT THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY** a second Assistant General Overseer was selected. As he had no place to move, and with serious sickness and later death in the family, he was forced to remain at the College, in the President's home, for a month after the General Assembly, forcing the incoming President of Lee College to live off the campus in a small apartment while many of his clothes and other personal and valuable belongings were stored in a garage in the back of the President's home. The new Assistant General Overseer finally moved to a hotel for a few weeks and is now living in two two-room apartments where he has two kitchens, two bathrooms, two bedrooms, but no sitting room, while a home is being built.

This explains why three homes are being built in Cleveland—one for each of the Assistant General Overseers and one for the General Secretary. Brother Conn, Editor-in-Chief, will move into the former General Overseer's home near the Publishing House. The Business Manager will take the former Assistant General Overseer's home on Walker Street, and the Editor of The LIGHTED PATHWAY is expected to take the home where the Business Manager has been living on Trunk Street. The home where Brother Conn is and the home formerly occupied by the Editor-in-Chief are to be sold.

I have tried to give the true facts without any reflections on anyone. However, if there are any mistakes, please overlook them, as this is being written between three and four o'clock a. m.



# CHRIST AT THE DOOR

By ROBERT HUMBERTSON,  
Professor of Speech, Lee College

**J**ESUS CAME into the world to seek and save the lost. That was His mission then, and it has been His mission since. Today He wants to save the sinner from his sins. He seeks entrance into the lives of all who have not as yet received Him. Have you welcomed Christ into your life? If not, at *this very moment* He is seeking to enter your heart. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me," Revelation 3:20.

Unsaved friend, please read on. Christ is at the very door of your heart, desiring admission. He is near to you. He is as close to you as the chair upon which you are sitting, the floor upon which you are standing, or the bed upon which you are lying. Christ is not a thousand miles from you. He is as near as He can be to you without being inside, and He wants to be there.

It is wonderful that Jesus comes to us. We might suppose that we would have to go in search of Him, but it is the other way around. He comes in search of us. It was thought a wondrous act of condescension when King George III visited the tent of a dying Gypsy woman in Windsor Forest and entered into religious conversation with her. What shall we think of Him, who, though He was the King of glory, came down to earth, took our sins and sorrows upon Himself, and now comes to each of us personally to offer us salvation? Christ "made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," Philipians 2:7, 8.

"What man of you," asked Jesus, "having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" Luke 15:3. Christ is like that shepherd. He has a direct, personal interest in all men. He loves everybody. Yes, He loves you. At times you may feel that you haven't a friend in the world. Remember, Jesus Christ loves you. He died for you, and He is coming to you right now, offering you the greatest blessing in all the world—the joy and power of having Him in your life.

**JESUS STANDS AT the door.** He knocks. He lifts up His voice. He calls clearly through His Word, through ministers, through singers, through the lives of Christians, and through His Spirit. D. L. Moody was conducting a service one time when a great businessman came and tried to get into the crowded building. They were singing the hymn "O Word of Words the Sweetest" and had just reached the chorus, "Come, oh come to Me." That was all the man heard. He made his way back to the office, but could not do his work. Across the pages of his

books he saw the word "Come" written. He made his way to his home, and he heard it in the ticking of his clock. He shut himself up in his room, and he heard it in the beating of his heart. He told Moody that alone in his room, down on his knees, he repented of his sins, received Jesus Christ as his Saviour, and that it was the words of the hymn that did it. The hymn was *Jesus speaking to him*. Can't you hear Jesus speaking to you? Will you hearken to His voice?

Holman Hunt painted a beautiful picture of Christ standing, knocking at a door. He hung it in an art gallery and invited the critics to view it. They looked at the work long and carefully and said to the artist, "Mr. Hunt, we feel that you have painted a masterpiece. However, we have found one mistake. You have no latch on the door."

Mr. Hunt replied, "That, gentlemen, was not a mistake. I intentionally left the latch off the door because *the door to the human heart can be opened only from within*."

Jesus will not force Himself upon you. He will come into your life only upon your invitation. But, if you open the door to let Him in, you will never regret it. He says, "If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him." Yes, think about who it is that is wanting to come into your life. It is the spotless Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. One of the most blessed realities concerning Christ's coming into a man's life is that *when He comes in, sin goes out*. Are you bound by the chains of sin? Let Jesus break them for you. Are you a slave to some sinful habit? Let Jesus give you victory over it. Are you living in darkness? Let Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, dispel the darkness and gloom from your life and give you light for your journey through life. "If you are tired of your burden of sin, let Jesus come into your heart. If you desire a new life to begin, let Jesus come into your heart."

**PERMIT JESUS** to come into your life with all of His love, holiness, wisdom, and power. He will be everything to you. If you will allow Him to come into your heart, you will be able to say with C. H. Spurgeon,

*What the hand is to the lute,  
What the breath is to the flute,  
What is fragrance to the smell,  
What the spring is to the well,  
What the flower is to the bee,  
That is Jesus Christ to me.*

*What's the mother to the child,  
What's the guide in pathless wild,  
What is oil to troubled wave,*

(Continued on page 12)

# What Shall We Read Today?

By CHESTER SHULER



**W**HAT SHALL WE READ TODAY?" is a question of greater importance today than ever before, yet all too infrequently asked, even of ourselves. It becomes an increasingly important query as the volume of reading matter available to the public increases—much of which is neither beneficial, uplifting, helpful, nor Christian in content.

Many times each day we are called upon to answer this question. We do so—consciously or unconsciously. And the result of our decision often proves the truth of the old adage: "Show me your private library or the material you *habitually* enjoy reading, and I will tell you both what and where you are."

Unless we possess strong convictions in the matter, we shan't likely stop even to question our reading matter, and yet, this is so very necessary if we would grow in grace and in the Christian life.

Some twenty-seven years ago, we read an article in which the author stated: "The present growing distaste for 'solid' reading is alarming to those who think seriously upon its meaning. For this distaste is particularly noticeable among young people—although certainly it is not confined to the young. Newspapers, so-called 'religious' novels, sensational tales, all sorts of trashy reading so easily obtainable from newsstands or corner drug stores, are eagerly devoured, while books of genuine worth gather dust, unread, in library and among our personal possessions."

Surely, we know that things have not changed for the better!

The same problem exists now as then, except that it is greater because there is more harmful reading matter now than there was then.

We may depend on it that our reading proves *what* we are and *where* we are. If it is light and frivolous, our state is the same. If our Christianity is of a solid and earnest type, it will influence the selection of our reading matter, and the Bible will certainly have first place in our library and in our reading. Its perusal will be *habitual and voluntary*, never done from a "sense of duty" or to keep the dust off the Book, but because we get genuine enjoyment from such reading. Its message will bring joy to our souls. We shall certainly realize the true meaning of the Spirit's declaration that "blessed is he that readeth" (Revelations 1:3, f.c.).

**T**HERE IS always, to everyone, a strong temptation to read something other than the Bible. Many Christians face the same temptation daily. Newspapers and magazines are attractively presented. The urge to "keep abreast of the times"—particularly in these rapidly changing times—is strong, and, in its place, important. But there is always the temptation to overdo, to neglect the Bible and food for the soul and spirit.

There is a very good reason why this is so. Satan has a fierce hatred for the Word of God. He knows that it is the Sword of the Spirit which can surely spoil his plans. Jesus used it effectively upon him in the wilderness temptation (Matthew 4). Saints have used it ever since. Therefore, if he can prevent people from reading, studying, memorizing the Word of God, he will do so.

In some lands today, reading the Bible is a crime. But Satan does not usually resort to violence to keep Christians from the Word. He works by more subtle, shrewd, methods. He causes worldly reading matter to seem more attractive—if he *can*. Study and research are used as reasons for putting our time on other things. Perhaps the greatest ally in Satan's campaign against the Bible is the newspaper.

Some time ago the London *Christian*, referring especially to conditions in England, sounded this warning, which is so applicable to our own land and day as well:

"The gradual and insidious way in which the daily newspapers are superseding all serious reading on the part of many professing Christians is a fact fraught with serious and lamentable consequences. The Bible is rapidly becoming the 'most *bepraised* and the least *beread*' book in the world. Its august message, its spiritual appeal, its open windows of insight into the mysteries of redemption are little known to the rising generation, compared with those of days gone by. Religious persons of old knew their Bibles from cover to cover; today many who would be shocked not to be called Christians, know it only at secondhand, and that very imperfectly."

Satan has another motive in keeping folks away from the Book. He knows that just as a child cannot grow and become strong without the proper nourishment, so a Christian cannot grow in grace and spiritual strength unless he feeds regularly upon the Word. It is Satan's business, therefore, to see that God's children starve spiritually—and that they *starve themselves*! For who can doubt the fact that the person who neglects the Word of God entirely or who can take the time merely to cast his eye hastily over a verse or two—yet can spare hours for newspaper and magazine reading, watching television, looking at the radio, talking sports, etc.—will be spiritually starved very soon?

"But what's the harm in reading a novel or short story if it teaches a good lesson?" someone asks. Certainly not all secular reading matter can be classed as "bad" or "harmful," but one of the gravest dangers of habitual reading of light and "popular" matter is that it makes the Bible and other worth-while books seem uninteresting. Sensational reading feeds the carnal nature and starves the soul and spirit. It helps throw one's life off balance. It ministers to the "old nature" instead of the new. It makes "lean" Christians.

(Continued on page 12)

# REPENT OR PERISH

BY MANUEL F. CAMPBELL, Overseer, Montana and Wyoming



**WHY NOT ACCEPT CHRIST** in order to stay out of hell? I have been told that a person ought not to become a Christian just to avoid perdition. But, after giving the matter consideration, I have come to the conclusion that if any person is willing to do as Jesus has commanded in order to escape hell, he most certainly would be justified. Don't you think it would be much better to go to heaven because of fearing hell than to have no fears and to wake up in the regions of the lost? The subject of hell is not popular with many people, but does that quench the fire of the inferno? No, the fire burns on. God has tried to blockade hell by the blood of Jesus, yet many seem so determined to reside in hell. It is not the pleasure of God for any person to perish, but all possible so-called channels to avoid hell are closed when Jesus is refused. Christ pressed the point of repentance until He left only one alternative—repent or perish. Then, why should Christians treat this important subject lightly? If ministers will preach more hell, there will be more people ready for heaven.

Luke 13:3, "I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." This was a sober warning from the Saviour. This was not given to tickle the ear; it was given to throw a scare into the heart. This was not given to amuse; it was given to keep the souls of humanity from burning in hell. The disposition now becomes a personal affair. Resign your soul to Satan this side of the grave, and he will be your companion in misery forever.

## WILL GOD SEND A SOUL TO HELL?

**YES, GOD** will send a soul to hell, but that soul must first refuse heaven. This may seem to be a bold assertion, but it is Biblical. First, let us consider a verse of Scripture found in 2 Peter 3:9b, "... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." So, you see, it is not pleasing to God for anyone to be lost. It is the will of God for the entire human family to avoid hell and enjoy heaven. Notice, however, He said, "that all should come to repentance." Repentance is the acceptance of the plan of God. Repentance will provide an access to God, through Christ, the Mediator. There is only one open channel from this earth to God; that is by the way of Christ. God has surrendered the plan of redemption completely into the hands of Jesus. Christ is the Portal to the heart of God.

Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name under heaven* given among men whereby we must be saved." Now, the sum total of this message is, if you do not accept Jesus you are just as sure for hell as if you were burning right now. One may say, "I do good deeds. Why should God send me to hell?" Good deeds alone cannot save you, my friend; it takes active faith in the shed blood of the Son of God. Why challenge God to send you to hell? This is exactly what a person does when he refuses to accept Christ by repentance.

## THE INVITATION IS TO COME AND BE SAVED

**THIS IS** a generous invitation. It is a sincere invitation. It is an invitation from heaven. St. Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The invitation is to come; the results will be rest. The best thing to do with a guilty conscience is to take it to Jesus. The only thing to do with a sin-laden soul is to prostrate it at the feet of Jesus and ask for pardon. If pride stands between a sinner and the Saviour, it would be much better to release all pride and then reach forth for peace and pardon.

Luke 19:10, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." Christ came to seek out the lost souls. He came to seek them out of the darkness of sin. He came to purge them from sinful iniquities. Before He left heaven He was interested in lost souls. While working on earth, He sought for lost souls. Then He died on the cross to reach lost souls, and He is at the right hand of God pleading for lost souls. The motivating purpose of the activities and the sufferings of Christ find true expression in His quest for souls.

## GOD RESPECTS THE DIGNITY OF MAN

**MAN IS** the highest intelligent being God has created on this earth. God gave man the power to think, the power to arrive at decisions. Man has been given the power to communicate with God. Man has been endowed by the Creator with the power of personal choice. Please give much consideration to this thought, because if the Bible substantiates the proposition that God demands a personal choice, then man must be responsible for his future existence. Is this not true? Then, if man is personally responsible for his destiny, who must assume the responsibility if he goes to hell? Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Isaiah 1:18, "Come now, and let us reason together, **SAITH THE LORD.**" We see in this the fact that God respects the intelligence of mankind by even proposing the idea of a conference. Man is not a dumb brute; he is a sensitive immortal being, created by the great Mastermind. Therefore, God gives him an opportunity to reason with his Maker on the sin problem. In this we see the patience of God, the mercy of God, and then we see the duty of man. If God will save a person against his will, then why bother to invite men for a conference?

St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." All some people can see in this verse of Scripture is love and redemption. But if you will look closer, you will also see hell and condemnation. This thought may be most distasteful to some, but it is not nearly as bad as hell will be. Do you think Jesus was joking when He said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish?" No; He spoke with candor to warn souls of the impending judgment of God.

I urge you to think with me on Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that



heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And *whosoever* will, let him take the water of life freely." It is most obvious that this proposition is based on conditions. If you are thirsty, come and drink of the water of life freely. Then, if you are thirsty and refuse to come, there is nothing left but to perish by the wayside. The offers of Christ must be personally accepted for them to become valid for the individual.

#### GOD ENCOURAGES MAN TO CHOOSE

**DEUTERONOMY 30:19**, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." God wants to surround man with His goodness. God encourages man to exercise the power of choosing righteousness and not evil. If God had His way, every man would be holy; every woman would be virtuous; and youth would sing His praises from a tender and consecrated heart.

If a person is to affect his future life for good, then he must make a definite decision for God in this world. It is terrible to think of the brevity of life, and then how slow and indifferent some react to the persuasion of friends and the wooing of the Holy Ghost. Many may postpone his repentance to God in this life, but he will definitely come to it in the world to come. However, it will then be repentance without receiving pardon; tears of sorrow, but to no avail.

#### GOD WILL DEMAND ALL TO BOW BEFORE JESUS

**PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11**, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." These verses of Scripture make it most plain that every knee, without the exclusion of a single one, will bow to the name of Jesus. The erstwhile blaspheming tongues will all join in praise for Jesus. The full realization of being lost will be experienced by all who reject the offer of the cross.

The destiny of the damned is a most horrible mental picture now, but what will it be out yonder? It will be a time when the light of promise has gone out. God has made reservations in His gigantic program to judge the world by the scales of righteousness. At this time the great and many gears of industries will all stop and stand still. The sinful masses will be removed from the customary environment to report at the judgment bar of God. Many people avoid religious services, shun the preachers of the gospel, and belittle the program of the Church, but this service will be obligatory. Yes, sinful souls will bow in humble submission to God. Embracing the gospel here is a matter of personal inclination, but then all personal choice will be absolutely denied. No exemptions will be issued to sinners from being at the bar of justice. This occasion will cause the cancellation of all private activities and impose the limitations of the Court of God on all sinful souls.

Sinners, have you read these Scriptures? Revelation 20:11-15, "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which

is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and the death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And *whosoever* was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." You can rest assured that when the docket is all cleared at the judgment bar of God, it will be the greatest and the most extensive prosecution of sin of which the world has ever known. When sad, sorrowful, lonely souls depart from the presence of God on the way to hell, it will be terrible. It will not be a time of mirth and laughter, but rather a time of anguish of soul and remorse of conscience. My God, sinners, stop now, I beg you in the name of Jesus and confess your sins and have faith in the blood of the Son of God. Then bypass hell by taking the road of Calvary. "The way of the cross leads home."

#### WHY SHOULD MAN REPENT TO GOD?

**ROMANS 3:23**, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." This proves conclusively that there is a need for deliverance from sin in all hearts. God appraised the human family and then declared that there was a universal need for the plan of redemption from sin. His report was a most factual proclamation.

Man was guilty of offending a gracious God. He had transgressed against the high oracles of the Almighty. He had walked in the ways of the transgressor. He had become defiled by the slime of sin. He had connived with Satan and ran greedily after all unrighteousness. In his pursuit for sinful pleasure he lost the true sense of lasting valuation. He had fallen so far that it was beyond his ability to rectify his misdemeanor. Man had the power to fall, but it now demanded the cooperation of God and the blood of Jesus to produce a plan for a restoration. Sin dulled the perception of man in holy things and gave him a grievous load to bear.

Nothing can destroy man faster than sin. The dreadful results of sin can be seen in the human wrecks on the highway of life. Some laugh at sin, but that will not dilute the narcotics of iniquity. Sin is to be more feared than the bite of the Gila monster, or the cobra serpents of India. Did you know that sin is the driving force to destruction? When sin helps to close the coffin on another victim, then Satan has been instrumental in destroying a soul and populating hell. Why let sin force you to commit eternal suicide? If a person will repent to God because of sins, God through Jesus Christ will forgive sins and will absolutely and abundantly pardon.

Yes, man should repent because of sin. The sinner must have his sins removed, or be stamped, marked, and scarred by the brand of Satan. Sin is a weight; sin is a burden; sin is a load; and sin is destructive. Sin is responsible for broken homes, broken hearts, and broken vows to God. Proverbs 14:9, "Fools make a mock of sin." The devastation of sin is not to be taken lightly. The person who makes a mock of sin lives in fools' paradise. Pity the poor person who lives in fools' paradise, works in fools' paradise, hopes in fools' paradise, dies in fools' paradise, and then wakes up to the horrible fact that he has played the fool. If you walk with sin, talk with sin, live in sin, die in sin, don't expect God to pour water from

(Continued on page 9)

# TITHING *When the World Was Young*

BY WM. H. TURNER

**T**HE FIRST specific mention of tithing in the Bible is to be found in Genesis 14:20, which records that Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek. Where did Abraham get the idea of tithing?

"In the beginning, God." And GOD made man in His own image. Man, falling into sin, did not entirely lose the image of God. Implanted in him was the spirit of worship. No nation has ever been found where this spirit did not exist. All along the track of history, altars, offerings, and worship are found. With this trinity of God-given gifts goes the practice of tithe-paying.

*THE UNIVERSALITY of the custom to build altars, to make offerings, and to worship is admitted to be a strong evidence that this custom came down from Eden.*

If altars, offerings, and worship came with Abraham out of Babylonia, where did he get his idea of tithing? From the same source, of course, and all came to the heathen from the original pure fountain.

One hundred and fifty-three years after Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, his grandson Jacob made a vow at Bethel, recognizing the tithe as belonging to God (Genesis 28:22, 23).

Four hundred and twelve years after Abraham's paying tithes, when Moses organized the Jewish people into a nation, the tithe, by divine direction, was written into the law.

*Clement, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Cyprian, Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, Chrysostom, Cassian, Herodotus, Diodorus, Siculus, Xenophon, and many other writers of the early centuries of the Christian era testify that tithing was known and practiced by ancient people other than the Jews down through the apostolic age and the early centuries following. Tithing was a common practice of both the Jews and the early Christians. How are we to account for the knowledge of ancient people of this law?*

It is entirely reasonable to believe that up to the time of the building of the tower of Babel and the confusion of tongues (Genesis 11) all peoples understood this law and practiced it. That would not have been difficult, for three persons reached back to the Garden of Eden; namely, Noah, Enoch, and Adam, so that it was a simple matter to hand down this law from Adam to Enoch, and from Enoch to Noah, and from Noah to his children, thus to the tower of Babel.

*When the Lord came down and confused their language, thus dividing the race into groups which became the foundations of nations, these groups would each transfer by word of mouth and by daily practice this law to their descendants, thus perpetuating the custom.*

When these nations forgot God and turned to idols, they continued to tithe, transferring the tithe to the sup-

port of heathen systems of religion. This accounts for the fact that in every ancient nation we find the custom of tithing well established and universal. Mr. Adam Clarke says, "Almost all nations of the earth have agreed to give one tenth to religious use."

So we have undeniable evidence that from the Garden of Eden to Christ and His apostles, tithing was an established fact, practiced by both Jews and heathen.

*IT IS NOW* our desire to trace tithing down through the apostolic and post-apostolic periods, and to do so we must try to discover what the church fathers had to say about tithing.

## CLEMENT

Clement, born the year Jesus was baptized, wrote a letter to the Corinthians somewhere between 68 and 97 A. D. In this letter he says, "It behooves us to do all things which the Lord has commanded us to do at stated times. He has enjoined offerings, not to be performed thoughtlessly or irregularly. These, therefore, that present their offerings at the appointed time are accepted and blessed."

## AN ANCIENT RECORD

The document known as "The Teaching of the Apostles" dates back to 120 A. D. Here we read, "But every true prophet that is willing to abide among you is worthy of his support. So also a true teacher. . . . EVERY FIRST FRUIT; therefore, of the products of the wine press and threshing floor. . . . thou shalt take and give to the prophets, for they are your high priests. But if ye have not a prophet, give to the poor."

## CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

A century later, Clement of Alexandria made the same argument. "The tithes of the fruits and of the flocks taught piety toward the deity, for it was from these and from the first fruits that the priests were maintained. We now, therefore, understand that we are instructed in piety, and in liberality, and in justice, and in humanity, by the law."

## JUSTIN MARTYR

Justin Martyr, who lived A.D. 110-165, shows how the church in his day was continuing the apostolic spirit of giving, like the church in Jerusalem, whose gifts far exceeded the tithe, and was sufficient to care for all.

## TERTULLIAN and ORIGEN

We must pass the testimony of Tertullian, A.D. 145-220, and of Origen, A.D. 185-254, on to you. Only mentioning this, he says, "We offer first fruits to Him to whom we send our prayers." He then asks a question worthy of our consideration, "HOW CAN OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS EXCEED THAT OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, WHO PAY TITHES AND FIRST FRUITS, IF WE DO NONE OF THESE THINGS?"

## CYPRIAN

Cyprian, A.D. 200-258, chides those who do not pay the



tithe. "They used to give for sale houses and estates that they might have treasures in heaven. **NOW WE DO NOT EVEN GIVE THE TITHE**, and while our Lord bids us sell, we buy and add to our store. Thus has the strength of believers grown weak."

#### THE APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTION

In the Apostolic Constitution, A.D. 300 we read, "OF THE FIRST FRUITS AND TITHES, and after what manner the bishop is himself to partake of them and distribute them to others. Let him use these tenths and first fruits which are given according to the command of God, as a man of God. So, also, let him dispense in a right manner the freewill offerings which are brought in on account of the fear . . . The Levites who attended upon the tabernacle partook of those things which were offered to God by all the people. . . . You, therefore, O bishops, are priests and Levites, ministering to the church. . . . for those who attend upon the church ought to be maintained by the church . . . Now you ought to know that although the Lord has delivered you from the additional bonds and does not permit you to sacrifice irrational creatures for sin offerings. . . . yet He has nowhere freed you from those oblations which you owe to the priest, nor from doing good to the poor."

#### AUGUSTINE

Augustine, A.D. 354-430: "Our ancestors used to abound in wealth of every kind for this very reason that they used to **GIVE TITHES** and pay the tax to Caesar. Now, on the contrary, because devotion to God has ceased the drain of the treasury has increased. **WE HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO SHARE THE TITHES WITH GOD, NOW THE WHOLE IS TAKEN AWAY** . . . I cannot keep back what He who died for us said while He was alive, 'Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.' **THEY GAVE A TENTH. HOW IS IT WITH YOU?** Ask yourselves. Consider what you spend on mercy, what you reserve for luxury." Can you imagine anything more up-to-date than this?

#### CHRYSOSTOM

Chrysostom, A.D. 347-407: "They gave tithes and tithes upon tithes for orphans and widows and strangers, whereas someone was saying to me in astonishment at another, 'Why such a one gives tithes?' What a load of disgrace does this expression imply since what was not a matter of wonder with the Jews has come to be so in the case of the Christian! If there was danger then in omitting tithes, think how great it must be now. . . . If he who is giving the half achieves no great thing, he who does not bestow so much as a tenth, of what shall he be worthy?"

#### CASSIAN

Cassian of the fifth century emphasizes the same thought: "Even if those who faithfully offer tithes and are obedient to the more ancient precepts of the Lord, cannot yet climb the heights of the gospel, you can see very clearly how far short of it those fall who do not even do this."

#### THE COUNCILS OF THE CHURCH

As the Church fathers speak with one voice on this subject, so have the councils of the Church. The Council of Macon passed the following decree in A.D. 575: ". . . The divine laws also taking care of the ministers of the Church that they might have their hereditary portion, have commanded all people to pay the tithe, that the clergy, being hindered by no sort of employment, may be

at leisure for the spiritual duty of their ministry, which laws the whole body of Christians for a long time kept inviolate, but now by degrees almost all of them have shown themselves prevaricators of those laws, since they neglect to fulfill the things which have been divinely ordained."

Ten other councils of the Church, up until A.D. 790, have ordered all Christians to tithe; viz, the councils of Ancyra, Grange, Orlenas, Metz, Tours, Neville Routen, Nantes, Toledo, and Femli. Tithing was well established in the time of Charlemagne and made imperative by the legatine councils in England.

Thus we see what unanimity of opinion there was among the ancient fathers of the Christian Church. Their testimony is valuable in establishing the practice of the earliest Christian centuries. For this practice there must have been apostolic endorsement and apostolic precedent.—*The Pentecostal Pulpit*.

#### REPENT OR PERISH

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the portals of glory to quench the fires of hell.

Proverbs 14:34, "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Righteousness will elevate the standard of any nation, but sin will plunder, corrupt, and bring a nation to national degradation and shame. A great German general said that Germany had forgotten God, and now God had forgotten Germany. Germany may have forgotten God, but the God of mercy still has His eyes on Germany and all the other nations of the world. Only the unmerited love of God has prevented the world from being in hell already. But there is coming a time when sin will be the means of causing an eternal separation from all that is good and holy. Yes, only fools make a mock of sin.

#### WHO CAN BE SAVED?

**THIS QUESTION** should arouse any person to seek an answer to such an important question in the Word of God. God's requirements to bless barren souls are not impossible for all souls to reach. Through mercy God makes accessible the fountain that was opened in the house of David for sins to all mankind. The solution in this fountain has never lost its power to dissolve the shackles of sin and set the captive of sin free by the power of God. Souls can still plunge into that fountain and lose, or be cleansed of, all guilty stains.

Who can be saved? What is God's quota for heaven? Can only the so-called "blue blood" reside up there? Must some sincere people die with a desire in the heart to go to heaven, yet because of some unjust limitations be denied the opportunity? No, thank God, heaven is opened to all. Heaven is opened for all who will be purified by faith in the blood of Jesus.

Romans 10:13, "For *whosoever* shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." This is a bona fide offer from the High Court of Heaven. Satan will hinder your calling upon God. But shout forth with faith, and God will deliver. It is not necessarily how loud you call, but rather how sincere the call is. This is what God is interested in. The ills of the soul cannot be cured by the balm of Satan. Murder and not mercy is the aspiration of all demons. But my precious Saviour will even accept the derelicts of society. The panacea that the inhabitants of this world so desperately need is a personal visit to Calvary for salvation. Amen.

# *A Missionary Trip to* **GOAT RIDGE**

BY A. W. BRUMMETT, *Overseer of Jamaica*

**W**HE AROSE early on the morning of October 21, 1951. I had an appointment at the Goat Ridge church, in the parish of St. Thomas. I had heard of this church but had never visited it; however, I was anxious to do so, and this was my opportunity. My principal purpose for the visit was to ordain Elder J. L. Gooden, the pastor of the church and parish overseer of the St. Thomas Parish. The Jamaicans are great people for pomp and display in any ceremonial service, and when a minister is ordained, it is a great occasion, and a fitting service must be arranged. Therefore, this service had been planned and advertised for some time.

As it is many times lonely traveling in the country, I often take one of our children with me. The children like these trips with me; therefore, they organize the trips, each one taking his turn when it comes. This particular morning it was Barbara's turn to accompany me. We left immediately after breakfast.

We usually take some water and a little picnic lunch on these trips. It is especially important that we take some water, as the water in many parts of the country is not suitable to use. I often wonder how the native people escape being sick. I believe much of their fevers of which they suffer much is due to the water they drink. Many of them drink from the rivers, and the country is thickly populated. Many drink from pits where the water has run from the roofs of the buildings. These pits are most always open; therefore, the fowls, as well as bugs, spiders, and other insects have access to the water, not to mention frogs, which I have seen swimming in the water.

As befitting the occasion, I was, if possible, to carry with me some of the dignitaries of the Church; therefore, I stopped by the home of the pastor of the headquarters church, the Rev. L. W. Higgins. Brother Higgins gladly accompanied me, also.

We took the road east from Kingston. It was a beautiful morning, with the beaches and blue waters of the Caribbean on the right of the road, and the towering peaks of the blue mountains rising above the clouds in the distance on our left. After some twenty miles we came to the Yallahs River. Up until this time I was on familiar ground, as I had traveled this same road some two months before on my way to visit the brethren in the village of Heartease a few days after the dreadful hurricane of August 17. When we came to the fork of the road at the river, we did not cross the river, but took the left road. The road followed the river through the narrow valley between the mountains. All along we could see the debris of the homes and other buildings that had been destroyed by the hurricane. We noticed, too, many logs and whole trees that had been uprooted by the storm and water. After some ten miles on this road, we reached the point where we must cross the river in order to continue the journey to Goat Ridge.

We parked the car and were pleased to see that some of the people had come to meet us with horses and one mule. The man in charge of the animals looked Rev.

Higgins, Barbara, and me over with a scrutinizing eye, and, noting that I weighed in the neighborhood of 200 pounds, he immediately announced that I was to ride the big mule, since he was the strongest animal and was more able to carry my weight. I asked which was the most gentle and docile of the horses, and was told that a bay horse with white feet and white spot in the forehead was very gentle. So I told the men that Barbara was to ride the gentle horse (which was not so gentle as was proved later). Mounting the animals we were on the way to traverse the remaining two miles to the church of our destination. In the car we had been traveling steadily upward for several miles, but now we turned down a sharp incline to cross the river. There was no bridge whatsoever, and the road was completely washed away, leaving steep banks and a rushing, swirling torrent of water to cross. I wondered how the animals could ever get down the bank and across the stream, the current of water being swift and approximately three feet deep, with deeper spots in some places, and huge stones scattered over the river bottom. But, as we had to cross, I gave my mule a kick in the ribs, released the bridle reins and let him find his own way down to the river, and into and across the water. I had to hold my feet high to keep from getting them wet. I also had to keep an eye on Barbara, she being only eleven years old and not accustomed to riding. Needless to say, it was a relief when we floundered up the distant bank.

**THE TRAIL** that we traveled from the river on to the church is hard to describe. To the natives with us, it was just another trip, but to Barbara and me it was something else, quite different indeed to our usual way of travel. The trail led us around the sheer face of the mountain, making sharp contours around the ridges and depressions in the mountain. I noticed that we were climbing higher and higher at a very sharp angle. Sometimes there was not more than three feet between the feet of the horses and a sheer drop to the ravines or river below. The distance to the bottom gradually increasing until, when we were almost to the church, I judged that the river was at least five thousand feet below us. The decline was so steep that it seemed one could throw a stone far enough out to drop in the ribbon of water below. But we moved on without incident. We at last came around a sharp point and could hear the people singing in the distance. My, did that singing sound good! I am not sure, but if my memory serves me right, it was the song that says, "Somewhere beyond the blue there is a mansion for me." In traveling some of these mountain trails one is made to feel sometimes that the mansion is quite near. Thank God for victory in Jesus, and the assurance that we are ready for the mansion when Jesus bids us come up higher.

The church building, a little frame structure, was sitting on a little level spot right on the point of a very high ridge. It seemed to me that as we dismounted in the churchyard, we had gone just as far as it was possible to go, but later I noticed a trail back of the building leading on still higher. I thought to myself that Goat Ridge was quite an appropriate name for this place. I was told at the noon hour, by the deacon, that they were changing the name to Mt. Zion. I whole-heartedly endorsed the proposed change in name.

**AS WE ENTERED** the building, the entire congregation arose in honor to the bishop and party.

(The island overseer here is always bishop to the people, and he is known and addressed as such.) Songs of welcome were sung and a welcome address delivered by the pastor. Rev. Higgins preached the morning message, as I was to speak in the afternoon, at which time the ordination of the minister was to be. An all-day meeting had been planned for the occasion, and several pastors from the other churches of God scattered throughout the parish were present to enjoy the service and add whatever they could to its success. It was quite appropriate, I felt, as we enjoyed the curry goat the people had prepared for our lunch. Yes, goat taste just fine after a strenuous climb up some of these mountains.

The Lord blessed in the ordination service. As I asked Elder J. L. Gooden to sit on the rostrum, I noticed that many eyes were filled with tears, as were my own, and I knew the people were crying because our brother was sitting alone. His wife, according to custom, should have been sitting at his side, but she had lost her life in the hurricane while trying desperately to escape the falling timbers with her two small children. But we were comforted in that we felt sure, from the Christian life that she had lived, she was at rest with her God. No more trials, no more steep trails to climb, no more hunger and sickness for her, as God had called her home. I have never been in an ordination service where I felt closer to God than I did in this service. A native brother had proved himself a faithful servant of the Church of God and Jesus Christ, and was being ordained to the highest rank of our ministry.

When it was time to go, my mule was led out and saddled, and the whole congregation came out to see me mount. Barbara was already on her horse, and I had to hurry as I did not want her to get far from me on this hazardous trail. And too, it may have been that I still felt young and wanted the people to know it. Anyway, my mind was to spring lightly into the saddle. So, placing my foot in the stirrup, gathering the rein in my hand, and flexing my muscles, I started to spring astride the mule. But alas, the saddle girth had not been properly cinched, leaving it loose and the saddle just sitting on the mule's back. As a result, down came the saddle, and me with it. A little more and I would have gone under the belly of the mule—quite an undignified show at horsemanship. When the girth was properly tightened and adjusted, I was able to mount, and in a much more cautious manner. As I came down the side of the mule, I heard much snickering from different points in the crowd, but some of the older people, with much effort I

felt, kept a straight face.

I asked Rev. Higgins to take the lead, and I placed Barbara's horse just behind him and my mule following, so I could watch Barbara and prevent any mishap if her horse became irritable or unmanageable. All went well until we had crossed the river, then, very unexpectedly, Barbara's horse broke into a gallop, passing Brother Higgins before he was aware of what was happening. I called to two men by the road to stop the horse, but they were too slow. Barbara was doing her utmost to stop the horse, but he had taken the bit in his teeth, and she was not strong enough to stop him. I attempted to get my mule to a faster gait, but he was slow in responding to my kicks, and when I did get him going he was no match for the runaway horse, for such he had become. Needless to say, I was much frightened, knowing that Barbara was a novice at horse riding. But I noticed she was riding like a veteran, standing in the stirrups and sawing on the bridle rein. The horse was getting faster and faster, and was soon several hundred feet in front of all of us. Many thoughts flashed through my mind as the horse rounded a curve and the saddle almost slipped sideways, but somehow Barbara managed to right it and keep her seat. Then they were lost from my view. At first I had called on the Lord to help, and He did not fail us. Some half mile down the road a little girl was playing in her yard above the road. When she saw the horse running so fast, she immediately saw that the rider was in trouble and could not manage the horse. So she called to a young man to stop the horse, which he did, grabbing the reins as the horse dashed by him. I was so thankful when I came up and found my little girl safe. She had dismounted as soon as the horse was stopped, and she was very angry at the horse, but thankful that she was not injured. I thanked the young man from the depth of my heart for stopping the horse, and gave him a small reward. As I looked at the rugged road the horse ran over, I could not understand how such a small child could have possibly stayed in the saddle, but God rides these missionary trails with us. It is His work, and we trust in Him. These things we most surely believe.

It was raining and the lights were on when we reached Kingston and home again. Another day is done, another task performed. God's work on the many mission fields must keep moving, at Goat Ridge and other places. We, on the field, will do the work. You, at home, keep us at work by your finance and prayers. Some golden day-break the great Shepherd of our souls will come, and we all want to hear Him say WELL DONE.

#### REPORT

##### Miami, Florida, District Convention

It isn't often that a publication carries news of Christian activities in Miami, because the news of sin and vice tends to suppress the reports from those who carry the tidings of "peace on earth, good will to men." But we do want to praise God for the gracious outpouring of His Spirit even amid this great city known throughout the universe as "the playground of the world."

The district convention for the churches on this district has just come to a close, and even though it lasted only two nights, it was indeed a blessing to those who attended. Through force of habit we often term

a message as about the best we ever heard, but it is contrary to habit that I say I don't believe I ever heard a more inspiring mission message than the one preached by our state overseer, Brother E. L. Simmons. He recalled the mission journey of Paul, and then he started reminiscing the mission activities of our early Church pioneers and told of his personal knowledge of their sufferings and privations. Somehow it put within us a new flame of fire to do more for those who have been called of the Lord to go to the less fortunates of this world. The mission offering was a fraction over a dollar per member for the total membership of this district. This was a little short of \$700.

For about 25 years there was not a new church established on the Miami District until about four years ago, and since that time we have five new churches. All the new churches seem to be moving right along. The Homestead Church, one of the newest, has built a new parsonage, and you couldn't appreciate this edifice unless you knew the story in back of it. Brother Henderson, the pastor, was injured in a fall, and while he was suffering with this injury, he built the parsonage, wearing a brace to support a chipped disc in his back. The doctor advised him not to work; in fact, told him he may never be able to work again, but he would work a while and

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## WHAT SHALL WE READ TODAY?

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PERHAPS one good way to decide whether or not the reading of a certain book or magazine is good, would be to ask oneself, "If the Lord Jesus came here just at this moment and saw me reading this, would He be pleased? Can I ask His blessing upon the reading of this? Shall I be a better Christian when I have finished? Can I read it to the glory of God?"

The Bible need never undergo this test! No matter how much in doubt we may be about other reading matter, God's Word can always be read with safety and profit. Its reading can be a genuine pleasure to God's children. Even the "wide" reading of the Bible is recommended; that is, reading it rapidly, much as one reads another book, to get a bird's-eye view, and become familiar with its contents.

Into the home, the life, the mind, the heart where the Bible has been dethroned and neglected is almost certain to come calamity sooner or later. Where the Bible is not on guard against the wicked devices of the enemy today, there is no defense.

We fail to recognize the greatness of the Bible. Some will smile when someone suggests that it is God's Word, that it is inspired, that it is sacred, and contains God's message to individuals. Yet, it is surely the truth. The Bible refuses to reveal its secrets to a skeptical mind. But it does reveal them to a simple, believing heart that reads and accepts as God's message what he reads. Happy is he who can truly say, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee."

The Bible is eternal. It has survived through the ages. Man has never been able to destroy it completely. Today it is more available than perhaps ever before, except in some lands where Satan's emissaries have the upper hand for the moment. Contrast the Bible, then, with the popular newspaper, the light, trashy magazine, the salacious volumes of filth so eagerly devoured by the public, the critical books written by learned but unbelieving men. All have their little day, then pass forever into oblivion. Yesterday's newspaper is thrown away. Last month's magazine is seldom re-read. Books on science or invention very soon become obsolete and are worthless. All man-made and man-written matter is, like its maker, prone to pass away and be remembered no more.

Not so with the precious Bible! "The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever" (1 Peter 1:24, 25). "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven" (Psalms 119:89).

Yes, "blessed is he that readeth"—the Bible! (Revelations 1:3.)

## CHRIST AT THE DOOR

(Continued from page 4)

*What is ransom to the slave,  
What is water to the sea,  
That is Jesus Christ to me.*

Jesus says, "I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." The American Version puts it, "I will be his guest and dine with him, and he with me." To take food with anyone is an outward sign of brotherly love and reconciliation. Christ comes in as a guest. This shows that you are no longer separated from God be-

cause of your sins. Christ cleanses from sin. No longer is there anything between you and God. You are reconciled to Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him," John 14:23. "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God," 1 John 4:15.

"I will sup with him, and he with me." Blessed occasion—dining with Jesus Christ! You may have supper with the King of kings, the Lord of lords. It is your privilege, and a most wonderful privilege it is! What is even more wonderful, this earthly communion with Christ is but a foretaste of what God will have in heaven for His children. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us," Romans 8:16-18. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is," 1 John 3:1, 2.

*In the silent midnight watches,  
List! thy bosom door!  
How it knocketh—knocketh—knocketh  
Knocketh evermore!  
Say not 'tis thy pulse is beating:  
'Tis thy heart of sin;  
'Tis thy Saviour knocks and crieth,  
"Rise, and let me in."*

*Death comes on with reckless footsteps,  
To the hall and hut;  
Think you, Death will tarry knocking  
Where the door is shut?  
Jesus waiteth—waiteth—waiteth,  
But the door is fast;  
Grieved, away the Saviour goeth:  
Death breaks in at last.*

*Then 'tis time to stand entreating  
Christ to let thee in;  
At the gate of heaven beating,  
Waiting for thy sin?  
Nay—alas! thou guilty creature;  
Hast thou so soon forgot?  
Jesus waited long to know thee,  
Now He knows thee not.*

The best friend you'll ever have, stands, knocking at your heart's door, wanting to be let in. "Just now your doubtings give o'er. Just now, reject Him no more. Just now, throw open the door; Let Jesus come into your heart."

I pray that God will help you to swing the door open wide, and say from the depths of your soul, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart to stay. Take up your abode with me. Forgive me of my sins, and wash me white in your precious blood. Give me grace and power to live for you whole-heartedly every day, the rest of my life."



## WHAT THINGS ARE SMALL?

By Vivian Backman

**F**OR WHO hath despised the day of small things?" Zechariah 4:10.

Doubtlessly we all enjoy a part in a big revival, big offering, big program or enterprise. However, most everything big had a small beginning. The cause we serve as Christians is indeed big, though the part some of us individuals play may seem so very small that we sometimes ask to be dispensed with. A child has been known to choose a penny or nickel in preference to a dime, because he judged by size. Anything honorable is not small. Anything of quality is not small. When of such nature, it does not stay small and is not small.

You may worship with a small group, but because of the honorable way you carry on you are not small, for springing from the core are rays of influence for good extending to others in the form of a smile, a fitting word, a helping hand, or a humble prayer.

It is not a small thing that a mother faithfully dresses the little ones and gets them to Sunday School, then listens to them relate the stories and verses they've learned, correcting any misconceptions and helping them to keep the small but precious paper tokens that they may retain the thought intended.

It is no small thing that a teacher

patiently works and prays to instill in the mind of a preschool child some Bible truth. Especially in the case of the 2- and 3-year-olds are the dividends seemingly so small that to some it is not worth the bother. It is not small, for it will not stay small. When truth becomes a part of an energy-filled child, it springs forth into faith, and a foundation is laid greater than the one Zerubbabel laid. Is not the foundation the most important part of your building? for even pillars cannot stand well without it.

The widow's mite was small, but packaged in faith and faithfulness it outweighed the offering of the spasmodic generous giver. We need never tuck our heads because of small performances which are fruits of our entire capacity or are destined to be small for a season.

There is a smallness, however, in which we hope to have no part—that of smallness of character and principle. In the world of politics we are supposed to be trying to sell the American way of life, while the whole world can tune in and hear a mud-slinging campaign. Cheap, isn't it? Let us not carry on dishonestly or allow ourselves to be partakers in cheap conversation, cheap enterprise or become victims of cheap methods, thinking to enlarge ourselves thereby. Nothing is small propelled by sincerity, honesty, gracefulness, faithfulness, and godliness. Nothing will be great when gendered by selfish and jealous motives, deceit, and cheapness of character. God save us from pettiness. Let us be large in thought, in word, and deed. Teach us to put into action our better impulses straightforward and unafraid.

### REPORTS

(Continued from page 11)

rest a while, and while "the outward man perisheth, the inward man was renewed day by day," and when the inward man has a vision, physical handicaps seem as nothing.

Some of our ministers have labored under various handicaps, but God has helped them, and in the face of every discouragement much has been accomplished for His name.

Great things seem in the offing for this district under the leadership of Brother P. W. Chesser, our district overseer. He is such a fine humble spirited man, and he and his good wife would be a blessing to any congregation.

Our city seems to be the vacationland for the world, and if at any time you would chance to be spending a vacation down our way, we would be glad to have you visit with us in our church. Our church is listed in the

classified section of the telephone directory, and is on one of the main thoroughfares of the city. To hear our choir sing would be worth the trip to Miami, so come and be with us.

The Lord bless you all.—Lucy Bennett, Church Reporter, 786 E. 27th Street, Hialeah, Florida.

### A Report of Church of God Where Old Man Sunshine Spends the Winter

MESA, Arizona.—Brother Ralph Acridge, of Tulare, California, came to our church as pastor about one year ago, taking Brother F. L. McClung's place after he felt God was through with him here.

At the time Brother Acridge came here, a new church was under construction. We sold the old church for cash, which we applied on finishing the new church. At the present time we are on the project of building new Sunday School rooms. We have a real

group of Willing Workers. They have purchased a Grand piano for the church and some new furniture for the parsonage and redecorated the parsonage.

Brother Eugene Dowdel, of the Open Door Mission in Chandler, Arizona, recently came into the Church of God and has just held a two weeks' revival for us. The results were wonderful, including about 20 filled with the Holy Ghost and 19 saved and sanctified. The church is growing, adding about 40 members the past year. We really do appreciate the ministry of Brother Acridge and his fine family.—Church Reporter.

### TELEGRAM

Great revival in progress at Crichton, Mobile, Ala., church, with Evangelist Beatrice Stansky. After 11 days, 44 saved, 43 sanctified, 40 baptized with the Holy Ghost, and 14 added to the church.—L. W. McIntyre, Pastor.

# In Memoriam



JOHN L. STEPHENS

The entire Church of God will mourn the loss of the Reverend John L. Stephens, one of our highest esteemed ministers. Brother Stephens was a great man and a good man. He was a man that the writer esteemed very highly and one that the writer desired to follow his examples from my early ministry. He was a faithful and loyal minister to the Church of God for a period of many years during which time he accomplished much for the church.

John L. Stephens was born in Harvett County, North Carolina, November 27, 1889. At his death he was 64 years of age, and was sick almost two years. He preached his last message July 27, 1952, at the Biltmore Church of God.

He was saved May, 1911, and was licensed in May, 1913. He was ordained in the year of 1922.

During his ministry he was State Overseer of Florida two years, Georgia one year, North Carolina ten years, and Ohio one year. He served several years on the Council of Twelve. He did pastoral work and was an evangelist.

He was married October 29, 1917.

The funeral was conducted by Rev. John C. Padgett, and assisted by Rev. E. C. Thomas, pastor of the Parkwood Ave. Church of God, Rev. Houston R. Morehead, Assistant General Overseer, and the writer.—Earl P. Paulk, Overseer of North Carolina.

## GARRISON

Mrs. Dessie Moffitt Garrison, born March 9, 1903, died November 10, 1952. She professed faith in Christ and became a good Christian at the age of 14. About 1930, while attending a cottage prayer meeting, the Holy Ghost fell on her in the same manner as He did on the household and friends of

Cornelius, recorded in Acts 10:44, 45. Persons present were astonished at the happening in the home of Cornelius. Likewise, persons present at the prayer meeting were astonished at the manifestation of the Spirit in and upon the young schoolteacher. Shortly after this event, (then) Miss Moffitt, was baptized in water and united with the Shooting Creek, North Carolina, Church of God. Soon she was made the clerk and served in that capacity very efficiently, and as a most faithful member until her death. About 28 years of her life was spent teaching in the public schools in her home county of Clay. At the time of her death she was a member of the Elf School faculty. Out of respect the Hayesville High, Shooting Creek, and Elf schools dismissed many classes in order that teachers and students could attend the funeral services.

Miss Moffitt, was married to J. Oliver Garrison, in 1936. She proved herself to be a wonderful housewife and neighbor. The Christian influence wielded and manifested, with every requisite of a good saint, will long live in the memory of school faculty members and multiplied hundreds of students coming under her supervision in the classroom, and will not be forgotten by relatives and friends in no small numbers.

Her funeral was conducted at the Shooting Creek Church of God, by Glover P. Ledford, assisted by Rev. R. McGuire, Pastor, Rev. Garland Worley, and Rev. E. P. Davenport. Burial was in the Union Hill Cemetery.—Glover P. Ledford, Ex-pastor.

## CHUBB

Sister Mary Chubb was called home to be with Jesus, December 31, 1952, at her home in Shelburn, Indiana. She had been ill for almost two years with cancer, but bore her suffering with patience. She was a devout Christian and member of the Church of God at Shelburn for more than 25 years. She is greatly missed by members of the church and friends. Her funeral was conducted at her home church by the writer.—C. H. Standifer, her pastor.

## CREWS

James Franklin Crews, age 11, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Crews, passed away November 29, 1952. He died from injuries incurred while working with his father cutting pulpwood near Folkston, Georgia. He was born in Hilliard, Florida, August 1, 1941. He had always attended the Church of God Sunday School and church worship in Hilliard, where his mother and father are members. Frank's place in the church, school, community, and home are vacant, and everyone misses him more than we can tell. He is survived by his mother, father, 3 sisters, one brother, and his paternal and maternal grandparents. Funeral services were conducted at the Hilliard Church of God by the pastor, assisted by a former pastor, Rev. S. P. Chesser, pastor of Otis Church of God.—A. Stone, Pastor.

1952

## SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS CHURCH OF GOD ORPHANAGE, SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE

- The Riverside Church, Bolton, Ga.—\$25.00
- Mrs. Carmen Perez, Bronx, N. Y.—\$50.00
- The Church of God, Chase City, Va.—\$27.75
- The Church of God, Catlettsburg, Ky.—\$7.00
- Sebewa Church of God Sunday School, Lake Odessa, Mich.—\$15.64
- Mrs. C. R. Bookout, Birmingham, Ala.—\$5.00
- Flatwoods Church of God, Max Meadows, Va.—\$10.00
- Marion District, Chilhowie, Va.—\$16.06
- South Bethel Church of God, Brewton, Ala.—\$6.20
- Mrs. Lula Hurley, Lawton, Okla.—\$2.00
- Miss Ella Mae Gaines, Summerville, Ga.—\$2.00
- The Church of God Sunday School, Springfield, Ill.—\$10.00
- The Church of God, Crane Eater, Ga.—\$10.50
- The Church of God Sunday School, Thornton, Ky.—\$6.20
- The Church of God Sunday School, Washington, Pa.—\$10.00
- The Church of God Sunday School, Kokomo, Ind.—\$5.00
- Mr. & Mrs. Earl Childs, Oak Lawn, Ill.—\$10.00
- Maria Bell, Talladega, Ala.—\$2.00
- Mrs. Jim Towns, McRae, Ga.—\$3.00
- The Church of God, Parrott, Va.—\$5.55
- Mrs. R. B. Seaton & Mrs. Neal Eubanks, Muleshoe, Texas—\$6.00
- Pamona Church of God Junior Class, Ontario, Calif.—\$15.00
- Mrs. B. F. Willard, Baxley, Ga.—\$10.00
- Raymond Skidmore, Silva, Missouri—\$25.00
- The Church of God—Mississippi Avenue, St. Louis, Mo.—\$14.50
- The Church of God, Pensacola, Fla.—\$10.00
- Lignite Church of God, Portal, N. Dak.—\$10.00
- The Church of God, Tampa, Fla.—\$75.00
- The Church of God, Thorn, Miss.—\$5.00
- The Church of God Sunday School, Ooltewah, Tenn.—\$16.41
- The Church of God, Kermit, W. Va.—\$20.00
- The Church of God, 2225 Evarts St., N.E., Washington, D. C.—\$22.00
- The Church of God, Oakley, Calif.—\$20.31
- The Church of God, Tallapoosa, Ga.—\$6.30
- The Church of God, Midway, Me.—\$3.25
- Pike Avenue Church of God, Birmingham, Ala.—\$37.00
- Church of God L.W.W.B., Sheboygan, Wis.—\$15.00
- The Church of God, 1488 5th Ave., New York, N. Y.—\$6.00
- Milton T. Meacham, Columbia, Tenn.—\$5.00
- J. E. Swank, PRI-U. S. N., San Francisco, Calif.—\$10.00
- The Church of God Y.P.E., Mobridge, S. Dak.—\$10.80

The Church of God Evangel



# REVIVALS

**ADRIA, Va.**—We had a very successful revival at the Adria Church of God, with Rev. H. M. Burchett, of Lynchburg, Virginia, as the evangelist. It was only a 2 weeks' meeting, nevertheless better than many revivals that last for longer periods of time. During that time 14 were converted, 7 sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost, and 19 adults added to the church membership. Previous to this there were 17 members. Our members and their friends were faithful in attendance and were rewarded with a visitation of the Spirit each night. We are thankful for these good workers, and it has been the means of a successful Sunday School and Y.P.E. There is much yet to be done in our community for God, so we desire your prayers for continued success.—Keither Blevins, Y.P.E. President and Youth Teacher.

**PATTEN, Ga.**—We have had a good revival at the Patten Church of God, with Brother and Sister E. W. Smallwood as evangelists. Two were saved, and our church was stirred and blessed. God has blessed the church in every way since we came here in September. We have some good people who love God. Our L.W.W.B. has been working hard and has raised enough money to paint our church. Pray for us.—Mrs. Lannie Wiggins.

**SILVERTON, Ore.**—We are still rejoicing over a great revival held here recently with Brother Al Woodward, of Vancouver, B. C., Canada, who was saved just about a month prior to the revival. God wonderfully helped him deliver the Word and pray with those who were seeking God for different blessings. Several were saved, sanctified and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and at the close of the revival 6 new members were added to the church, along with 2 transfers.—B. F. Sherbahn, Pastor.

L. S. Johnson, Knoxville, Tenn.—\$5.00  
The Church of God, Belfast, Me.—\$5.10

The Church of God Young People's Sunday School Class, Yakima, Wash.—\$5.00

The Church of God, Seaboard, Va.—\$3.56

War District, War, W. Va.—\$7.00

The Church of God, Aiken, S. C.—\$5.00

Nat Sandler, Atlanta, Ga.—\$25.00

The Church of God, Marble Hill, Va.—\$6.75

The Church of God, Woolen Lake, La.—\$5.25

State of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa—\$116.00

Great revival in progress with Rev. C. E. Richard, of Birmingham, Ala., as the evangelist. Twenty-six saved, 12 sanctified, 26 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 27 united with the church. Revival in third week.—J. L. Summer, Pastor, Pulaski, Va.

**DALLAS, Ga.**—We have just had a 3 weeks' revival with Brother James Poe Jackson doing the preaching and Sister Mary Frances Frizzell praying for the sick. There were several healed—one healed of cancer. Twenty were saved, 8 sanctified, 19 baptized with the Holy Ghost, 10 added to the church, and several to be baptized in water. The church was blessed in many ways. Brother Earl White, our pastor, is doing a wonderful work here for the Lord.—Clay Cantrell, Reporter.

**JOHN SEVIER, Tenn.**—The John Sevier Church of God has had a one week's youth revival conducted by Brother Chester West. The revival was a great blessing to the church, and a number were saved and blessed by the power of God. The Lord met with us in a glorious way each evening. We truly thank the Lord for the way He is blessing at the John Sevier Church of God.—M. M. Smith, Clerk.

**DOWLING, Fla.**—We thank and praise God for the good revival we had here at our church December 2-23, with Sister Gertrude Albritton, of Lake City, Florida, as our evangelist. Sister Albritton preached night after night under the divine anointing of the Holy Ghost. She fasted and prayed and worked untiringly for 3 weeks in the interest of lost souls. God honored all our efforts and answered prayer. The saints were encouraged and drawn closer to God, and sinners were seized with Holy Ghost conviction and made to see their need of Jesus. There were 9 saved, one sanctified, and 2 baptized with the Holy Ghost. We are planning a baptismal service as soon as the weather permits, and are also expecting some new members to come into the church soon. Sister Albritton is a Spirit-filled, old-time gospel preacher. Pray that we will be in the center of God's will.—Glenn Pridgen, Pastor; Mrs. Evelyn Baker, Reporter.

**GOLDSBORO, N. C.**—We should like to report a very successful revival in December, with Brother and Sister Mahaffey of Kentucky in charge. They are both wonderful ministers of the Word of God. The Lord really blessed us with many souls saved and the church greatly revived. The evangelists were a blessing with their good singing, too. Our church is realizing much progress with our pastor, H. R. Corley, and his wife. Pray for us.—Myrtle Moore.

**BASTROP, La.**—We have just had a revival with Evangelist F. A. White, of St. Louis, Missouri, doing the preaching. There were 35 saved, 30 sanctified, 25 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 20 added to the church. We praise God for His many blessings since we came to Bastrop following

the Assembly. Our Sunday School has doubled in attendance and has purchased complete bathroom fixtures for the parsonage. We ask an interest in your prayers.—W. M. Granger, Pastor.

**PINEVILLE, Ky.**—We have had a wonderful revival with Rev. L. G. Rouse as the evangelist. Nine were saved, 5 sanctified, 6 baptized with the Holy Ghost, and 6 added to the church. Many received healing of different diseases during this revival. The church as a whole has been greatly blessed. Brother Rouse really preaches the Word of God. His address is 2735 Washington Avenue, Knoxville, Tenn.—John R. Gouge, Pastor.

**NOLON, W. Va.**—We thank God for Sister Maggie Messer who held us a 3 weeks' revival. Brother Trinnel Chaffin is our pastor. There were 3 souls saved, and the saints were helped spiritually.—Geraldine Runyon.

**MONTICELLO, Ky.**—We thank the Lord for the revival He gave us in the month of November. Twelve were saved and 4 added to the church. The Lord was with us in each service to convict of sin and heal sick bodies. Brother Baxter Wilson, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was the evangelist. He was a great blessing to the church. This is a new work here, and we need your prayers.—J. T. Fletcher, Pastor.

**OCILLA, Ga.**—We have just had a 3 weeks' revival at the Ocilla Church of God, with Sister Roy Douglas as the evangelist. Nine were saved, 7 sanctified, 7 filled with the Holy Ghost. Sister Douglas will do any church good because she is so humble.—Nas Paulk, Pastor.



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